



Milwaukee County

Supervisor David F. Bowen, 10th District

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SUP. BOWEN HAILS COUNTY BOARD'S ADOPTION OF ICE RESOLUTION

Co-sponsor of resolution to prevent inappropriate detention of immigrants

Milwaukee, WI – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is asking municipal law enforcement to identify whether the persons they stop for various offenses are undocumented aliens, so they can be deported if deemed criminal or a threat to public safety.

Regardless of any personal feelings regarding illegal immigration, Milwaukee County has a population of undocumented persons who are not involved in criminal activities and have the right to live productive lives without being targeted or criminalized.

County Supervisor David F. Bowen voted in favor of a resolution that would avoid excessive detainment of undocumented immigrants by the Sheriff's Department in cases where the persons have not committed serious crimes or have committed no crime at all. The vote discourages racial profiling, as well.

"It is not our purpose to stop the Sheriff from working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), but to prevent the expenditure of tax dollars on a program that isn't appropriate," Supervisor Bowen said. "We want to get in line with ICE's 2011 policy to pursue only those immigrants who pose a danger to the public and have committed serious offenses."

For example, a non-serious offense such as driving to work without a license to provide for one's family is not sufficient to be deported. In numerous cases, these are members of our community doing the right thing.

"By voting to take this action, the members of the County Board are standing up for poor working people of color," Supervisor Bowen added. "As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, 'An injustice to one is an injustice to all.' I am gratified by the messages I have received requesting this action and by the many community members and organizations in attendance at yesterday's Board meeting to support the resolution."

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